

Downtown Morgan Hill Art Installations



Photo: City of Morgan Hill

Name: Tarantula

Artist: Gordon Huether (2015)

Installation location: 4th Street mid-block

The annual migration of tarantulas, who are native to Santa Clara County, is celebrated here in Morgan Hill at Henry Coe State Park each October with the 'Tarantula Festival'. The Spider installation subverts the tarantula's fearsome presence by reimagining it as an amusing, three-dimensional arachnid crawling up the façade of the Parking Structure's Fourth Street entrance. The installation is composed of hundreds of vintage automobile headlights for the spider's body and is adjoined by eight vibrantly red powder-coated steel outstretched legs.



Photo: City of Morgan Hill

Name: Encompass

Artist: Blessing Hancock (2015)

Installation: Monterey Road and Dunne Avenue

Encompass is an abstraction of Morgan Hill's unique topographical location within the Santa Clara Valley. The folded panels allude to the surrounding hillsides of the Pacific Coast and Diablo Mountain ranges, while the two curvilinear forms enclose the Morgan Hill valley between them. The sculpture is made up of bicycle wheels highlighting the community's cycling interests. The lighting projects intricate shadow patterns onto the surrounding landscape and visitors to the sculpture.

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Name: Playful Crosswalk

Installation: Monterey Road and Dunne Avenue

Camino a Jugar, or Path to Play, was a project implemented by the City of Morgan Hill to enhance and revitalize downtown. By creating playful and artistic crosswalks, as well as a pedestrian-friendly wayfinding signage program, the city is using this project as a way to continue its redevelopment efforts and enhance the pedestrian experience downtown.



Photo: City of Morgan Hill

Name: Dear Family

Artist: Evelyn Davis (2015)

Installation: Monterey Road between 3rd and 4th Street

The Dear Family art installation represents the wholesome family life of both the human residents and black tailed deer of Morgan Hill. This family of deer: a doe, a fawn, and a buck, were sculpted in clay and cast in bronze using the time honored lost-wax process. The antlers of the buck were cast from actual shed antlers of a local deer. The broken tip of one tine might have occurred in a springtime duel. This installation is a reminder of the local wildlife that returns the gift of pastoral beauty to us.

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Name: Poppy Jasper
Artist: Gordon Huether (2015)
Installation: 3rd Street Mid-block

Poppy Jasper, Morgan Hill's ubiquitous gemstone, was the inspiration for the translucent enclosure, wrapping around the parking structure's stairwell. Facing the Third Street Plaza, Poppy Jasper features the vibrant reds, oranges and yellows of the gemstone that is said to have healing properties. By celebrating this hometown gemstone, the artwork also promotes a strong local identity of Morgan Hill.



Photo: City of Morgan Hill

Name: Meet me in Downtown
Artist: Morgan Bricca (2015)
Installation: 3rd Street near Depot Street

The "Meet me in Downtown" mural depicts various scenes from Downtown Morgan Hill from the late 1800's to the future. In the last three years Downtown Morgan Hill has gone through \$25 million of renovations and changes and it will continue to evolve going forward with new private investment.

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Photo: City of Morgan Hill

Name: Waiting for the Train
Artist: Marlene Amerian (2007)
Installation: 3rd Street and Depot Street

"Waiting for the Train" depicts one of Morgan Hill's early founding families- Hiram Morgan Hill, his wife Diana and their daughter Diane. In 1898, when the first Southern Pacific Station was built, many visitors would request the train stop at "Morgan Hill's Ranch", which is how Morgan Hill got its name. The station provides a historical and artistic legacy for the Morgan Hill Community.



Photo: City of Morgan Hill

Name: Bike Park
Artist: Mesngr & Empire 7 Studios (2015)
Installation: 2nd Street and Monterey

The Pop-up park is a fun family gathering space is located at the intersection of the 2nd and Monterey Avenue. Many of the elements of this temporary park were donated and will be reused in future parks and plazas in Downtown.



Photo: City of Morgan Hill

Name: El Toro
Artist: Mesngr & Empire 7 Studios (2015)
Installation: 2nd Street behind Granada Theatre